

# Featured Stock



## NCBFG

NCB Financial Group Limited (NCBFG);

Opening price— \$42.39;

Price to book— 0.55 times;

P/E— 4.76 times

**Week to Date:** -0.51%

**Month to Date:** -0.08%

**Quarter to Date:** 9.07%

**Year to Date:** 9.07%

**Our weekly pick features a stock currently held in the Mayberry Managed Equity Portfolio (MMEP). For more information on the MMEP, please contact your investment advisor today.**

NCB Financial Group Limited (NCBFG) was incorporated in April 2016 as the financial holding company of National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited (NCBJ). Now Jamaica's largest financial-services group, NCBFG delivers a full range of banking, wealth management, insurance, and offshore-banking services through its subsidiaries. With a commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction, the Group offers competitive products for both individual and business clients across the Caribbean.

For the three months ended 31 December 2025, NCBFG delivered a resilient performance amid a more challenging operating environment, shaped by post-hurricane disruptions and volatility in regional financial markets. Although headline earnings edged lower year-on-year, the Group demonstrated improving operational efficiency, solid balance sheet expansion, and disciplined cost control throughout the period.

Net operating income declined 5% to J\$33.5 billion, largely due to unrealised fair value losses within the Group's equities portfolio, which weighed on gains from foreign currency and investment activities. Core banking fundamentals, however, held steady — net interest income grew 4%, underpinned by effective cost-of-funds management and well-preserved net interest margins. Fee and commission income declined modestly, reflecting a deliberate pullback in loan originations and targeted customer support measures in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

The insurance segment proved a meaningful counterweight to market-driven pressures. Insurance service results improved 25% to J\$9.4 billion, bolstered by reinsurance recoveries and underlying business strength, while net insurance finance expenses fell sharply by 81%, further supporting earnings resilience.

On the cost front, the Group continued to execute on its efficiency agenda. Operating expenses declined 5% to J\$26.2 billion, driven by cost optimisation initiatives and the absence of prior-year one-off losses, bringing the cost-to-income ratio to 72.5% — a clear reflection of management's focus on disciplined expense management.

Profit before taxation declined only marginally by 2%, underscoring the strength of underlying operations. At the bottom line, net profit came in at J\$5.1 billion, with profit attributable to shareholders of J\$2.5 billion and earnings per share of J\$1.05, slightly below the prior year. Results were also affected by the recognition of the annual asset tax charge of J\$2.7 billion during the quarter.

Strategically, NCBFG remains focused on balance sheet optimisation, risk management, and sustainable earnings growth. During the quarter, the Group refined its credit adjudication processes — particularly within digital lending — adopting a more conservative origination approach to strengthen asset quality. Liquidity was also actively deployed into higher-yielding investment securities, supporting income generation while keeping buffers comfortably above regulatory requirements.

As of 20 March 2026, NCBFG was trading at 0.55 times book value with a price-to-earnings ratio of 4.76 times.

